

WOMEN'S POLITICAL ALLIANCE

529 So. Cleveland #5
St. Paul, MN 55116 7428 '99 JUL -8 P2:14

June 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038 Irradiation the Production,
Processing and Handling of Food

To Whom It May Concern:

As a cancer survivor and one who is aware that environmental factors cause 80% of all cancers (International Agency for Research on Cancer), I am very much concerned about the condition of food that not only I consume, but also my family.

The move afoot to deny or confuse consumers as to the condition of the food they buy is especially alarming. Irradiation, in particular, is of major concern because it destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are unknown to most consumers.

Members of our organization are adamant about the need for foods to be clearly labeled. We are convinced that such labels should be easily read and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. The use of the word "pasteurization" is unacceptable because it describes an entirely different process.

Would you please let me hear from you about this as this issue is of extreme importance to members of the Women's Political Alliance. Among them are several members who also have had cancer and none is "out of the woods" for the length of their lifetimes.

Sincerely,



OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. We work to create a peaceful nation, beginning with peace in ourselves, our relationships, and our communities. We must replace domination and competition with partnership and cooperation.
2. We work for equal rights for all women and legislation to ensure the rights of full citizenship to all persons regardless of color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, class or physical condition.
3. We acknowledge and work for a shared societal responsibility for all the world's children. We support and work to fund legislation for children in the areas of health, physical safety, nutrition, shelter and education. We place high priority on necessary and fair financial reimbursement and training for all child care givers.
4. We create and support alternatives urgently needed to restore our planet to fertility and health. Economic interests cannot supersede the well-being of our planet earth, now endangered everywhere by our individual and corporate abuse.
5. We are working for an economic bill of rights that utilizes our resources so that all persons can experience a standard of living that covers basic needs such as food, housing, education, employment, and parenting support. Militarism and individual and corporate greed, which are destroying our nation and the world, must be resisted.
6. We work for health care for all people. We support choice in access to all matters of health care, including those of reproduction and treatment modalities. Our position on abortion is personal choice, not political control. We assert the right of individuals to access information, herbs, vitamins and other supplements, wholesome foods, and alternative healing modalities to exercise personal choice.
7. We support women leaders and women candidates who demonstrate feminist values and who uphold these principles.
8. We work for a foreign policy which acknowledges the sovereignty of all nations while recognizing that we are all citizens of one world. We are opposed to irresponsible capitalism – lacking humane values and a shared humanitarian goal. A perspective of oneness guides our decisions.
9. We work for government-supported cultural community centers and programs which preserve and enhance the art and culture of all races. By celebrating the artistic expression of all our citizens, we are building community

WPA

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. Is WPA a political party?

A. Not in the traditional sense. We have deliberately chosen not to define ourselves as a traditional political party. Instead, we prefer to forge a new politics according to humanitarian values and viewpoints, believing that existing political parties as they are defined reflect outmoded ways of thinking.

Q. How do I know whether this is an organization for me?

A. The Women's Political Alliance works for fundamental social change. We are open to and interested in members from all socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. Our philosophy is that the more diversity we have, the stronger we will be.

Q. How does WPA make decisions?

A. In order to encourage creative thinking and problem solving and to avoid the tyranny of the majority, decisions are made primarily on a consensus basis. We believe in power with rather than power over.

Q. How can I become a member?

A. Simply fill out and return the attached coupon to Women's Political Alliance. No one is turned away due to inability to pay. To cover costs of operation, mainly the production and distribution of our newsletter, a minimum donation of \$15 per year is requested. The newsletter keeps you informed of actions and meetings. To form a WPA group in your area, call (612) 451-6600.

529 S. Cleveland, St. Paul, MN 55116 ... (612) 698-3474 or 451-6600

Women's Political Alliance.

I would like someone to call me and tell me more about the

I can contribute \$5 \$15 \$25 \$50 other

towards the monthly WPA newsletter.

Phone _____ day _____ eve _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

YES! I wish to become a member of Women's Political Alliance today.

WPA

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St. Paul, MN 55116

HERE IS WHY WE NEED A WOMEN'S POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

...Four out of five (80%) of the poor in the U.S. are women and children.

...More than 12 million children and 14 million women of childbearing age have no health insurance.

...One in four (25%) homeless people in U.S. cities is a child.

...Every six minutes a woman is raped in the U.S. and every 15 seconds a woman is beaten by a husband or partner.

...One out of three women (30%) will be raped in their lifetime.

...One out of every two women (50%) will be victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

...Three out of four (75%) of the elderly poor are women.

WPA

Women's Political Alliance

WHO ARE WE?

WPA is an association of women united in care, concern and commitment in raising all women's voices...

TO DO WHAT?

To create universal peace and justice in the human family and to protect and nurture mother earth...

HOW?

Through fundamental social change.

Polly Mann
529 S. Cleveland #5
St. Paul, MN 55116



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